

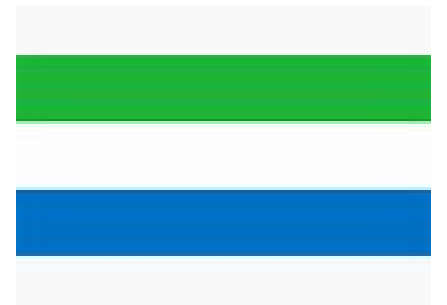


# How Civic Entrepreneurship Addresses Social Justice Issues for Women Around the World

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# Abstract

- This presentation will provide a retrospective of nearly ten years of a faculty member's activities with microfinance/women's empowerment projects throughout the world.
  - including working with a variety of community partners both here in the U.S. and overseas.
  - in collaboration with undergraduate students as Service Learning Assistants, funded by the IUPUI Center for Service and Learning.
- These civic entrepreneurship efforts directly address the social injustice that results from limited employment opportunities and insufficient financial resources that hamper the advancement of women in many countries.

# Microfinance as an Viable Approach to Social Justice Challenges

- One of the few successful approaches to economic development.
- Professor Hook wanted to be involved in microfinance ever since she read the first article about Professor Muhammad Yunus in *Forbes*.
- Professor Muhammad Yunus established the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh in 1983, fueled by the belief that credit is a fundamental human right. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.
- Concept of civic entrepreneurship/social entrepreneurship.
- Most participants in microfinance are women – and microfinance contributes to women's empowerment by building a support system and sense of community, particularly in remote areas.

# Projects in Calnali, Mexico, 2009-2015



In the State of Hidalgo, NE of Mexico City. The capital is Pachuca, the site of UAEH and Pro Mujer's office in Mexico.

# Beautiful Vistas – But Many Challenges





# Small Local Villages





# Women Who Benefitted from the Loans



Erika and her mother



Erika's family





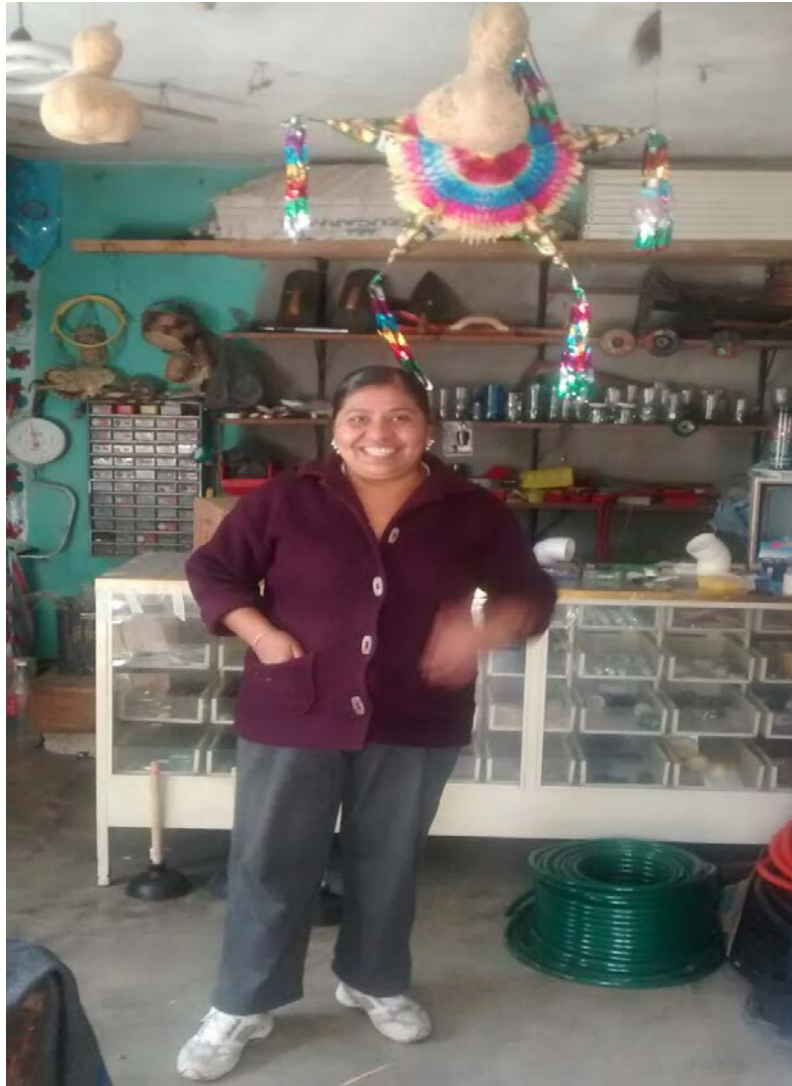
Communal Bank “The Doves” (Las Palomas)



Communal Bank Las Margaritas de Calnali

This way of organizing the women who receive loans creates a support system and builds community in a remote area.





Angelina Fuentes Hernandez, hardware store owner, Communal Bank San Juan



Cecilia Portillo, Communal Bank *Los Rosales* (The Rose Bushes)

# Projects in Sierra Leone, 2015--



Ebola outbreak





# Scenes from Graced Team Project



Bonthe District,  
Southern  
Province

30 poor rural  
women farmers  
aged 25-40

Photographs taken  
by Jackie Stillwell,  
General Secretary,  
RSWR. Used with  
permission from  
RSWR





A typical house

Extracting palm oil -- this is the business the women who planted cassava started in order to repay their loans.







Washing clothes

Preparing a meal







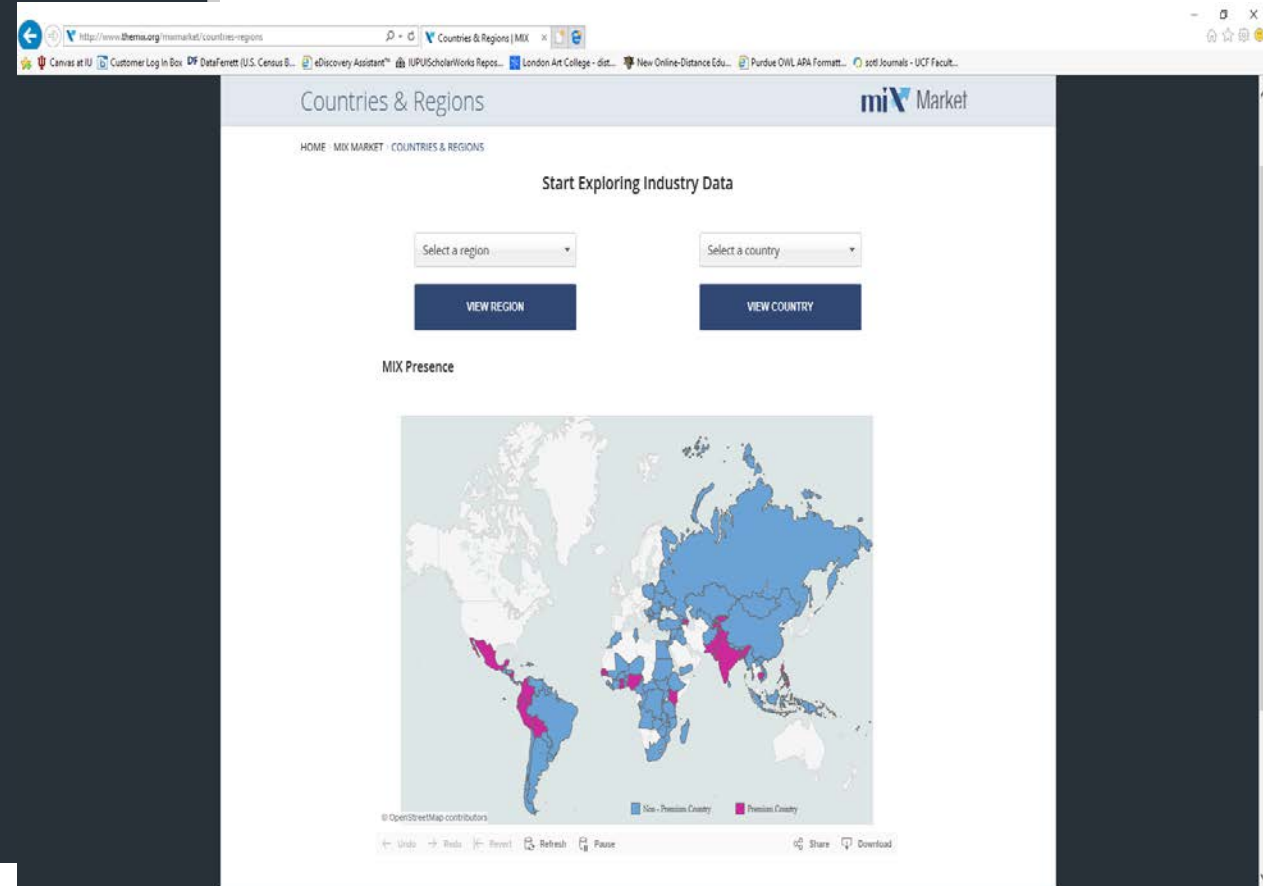
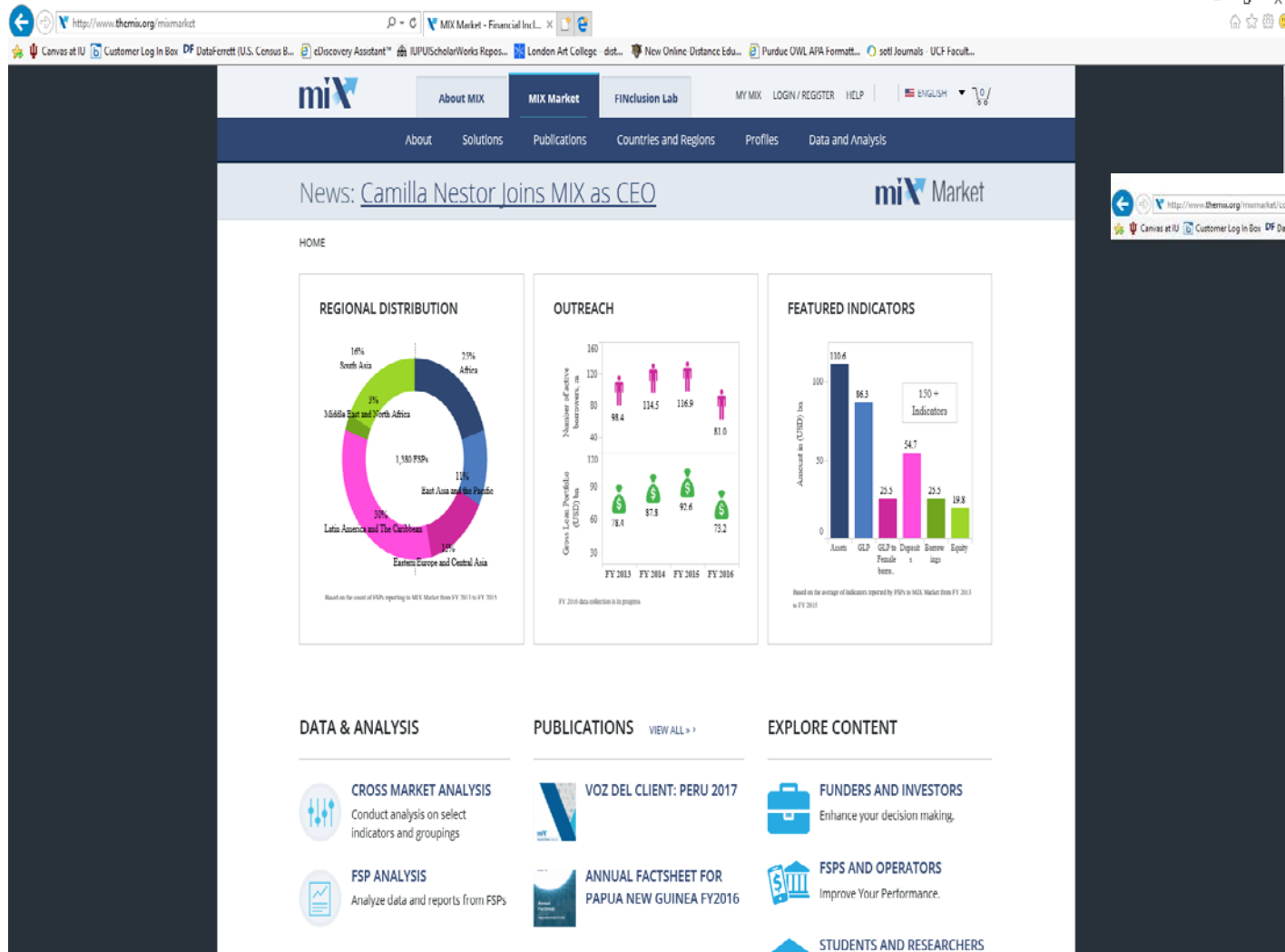
Village houses



Paying back their loans: an opportunity to build community



# Information about Microfinance Organizations – MIX Market.org



# Conclusions

- “Not all of us can do great things. But we can all do small things with great love.” ~ Mother Teresa
- “Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has.” ~ Margaret Mead
- “Give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime.” ~ Chinese Proverb

- To Get Involved:

- Try Kiva.org – choose a category and then select a project to support!
- Identify high-quality microfinance organizations through the MIX Market website that support causes you are interested in.
- Join, volunteer for and support high-quality microfinance organizations.

- Any Questions?

- Thank you for attending our presentation! Sara and Audra